

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

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Information Item

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Ref: **CALIFORNIA AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN: SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS ELEMENT**

SUMMARY

The System Requirements Element is one of ten Elements and Working Papers that make up the California Aviation System Plan (CASP). The CASP is prepared by the California Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics and updated every five years per California Public Utilities Code Section 21701, et seq. The law requires the CASP be developed in consultation with Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) and adopted by the California Transportation Commission (Commission). The new System Requirements Element (Requirements Element) of the CASP is broken into two sections: Section I - General Aviation & Reliever Airports and Section II - Primary Commercial Service Airports.

Section I reviews airport functional classifications within the CASP and compares it with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). Also reviewed are state airport permit categories and federal and state airport project funding eligibility. Minimum standards are set, based on functional classification descriptions, followed by a detailed need identification and analysis for all airports within each of the nine CASP planning regions (see attached map). Section II discusses the State's limited role in planning and programming airport projects for these facilities. Current trends, forecasts, and known and anticipated enhancement needs are portrayed with a focus on the impact of not addressing these needs at General Aviation and Reliever Airports.

The Requirements Element will be updated biennially. Copies of this edition will be made available at the January 2004 California Transportation Commission meeting and, subsequent to the Commission meeting, posted on the Department's Division of Aeronautics website (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/htmlfile/sre2003.php>). No action is required of the Commission at this time.

BACKGROUND

Significant latent capacity may be realized through a focus on at least preserving and also enhancing existing infrastructure at the State's 244 General Aviation and Reliever airports.

The primary purpose of the Requirements Element is to identify and prioritize needed airport capacity and safety related infrastructure enhancements that impact the safety and effectiveness of the California Aviation System. The emphasis is enhancement projects at General Aviation and Reliever Airports.

The airport functional classification system referenced throughout the CASP was created in recognition that different airports are better suited to serve specific roles and segments of aviation. Previously, the CASP lacked meaningful minimum infrastructure standards for each classification. This lack of standards made it difficult to identify and evaluate airport infrastructure enhancement needs from anything but a local perspective. Thus, the assigning of minimum infrastructure standards for the runway environment of each airport was a starting point for this version of the Requirements Element. From these standards, each airport can be evaluated and needed enhancements identified.

The result provides the first system-wide approach to assessing and prioritizing airport infrastructure enhancement needs. Consideration of these needs, in conjunction with the CASP's biennial Capital Improvement Plan, will enable the Department to more effectively allocate resources that will directly and most immediately improve aviation safety and capacity at both a local and statewide level. The total estimated cost of the identified enhancements comes to \$120.28 million.

The Requirements Element in its present form is considered a work in progress. Future versions will include additional minimum standards for each functional classification and potentially reclassification of specific airports based on current and expected service levels and regional growth patterns.

Attachment

California Aviation System Plan Regions

